



FIRST THINGS FIRST

The right system for bright futures

Planning For An Early Childhood System

Why Build an Early Childhood System?



Status of Arizona's Children

37th in overall indicators of child well-being

45th in high school drop-out rates

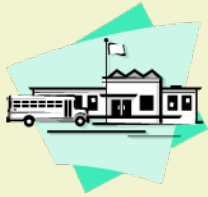
41th in births to teens

34th in children living in poverty



LOS ANGELES AGENCIES - PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Education



- Public Schools
- ESEA, Title I
- School Lunch & Breakfast
- Head Start
- IDEA
- After-School Programs
- Textbook Funding
- Tests & Achievement
- Teacher Issues
- GED

Health & Food



- Medi-Cal – EPSDT
- Healthy Families Parent Expansion
- Child Health & Disability Program
- Expanded Access Primary Care
- Trauma Case Funding
- Co-payments for ER Services
- Child Lead Poisoning Prevention Program
- HIV/AIDS Prevention & Education
- Breast Cancer Screening
- Food Stamps
- WIC

Social Services



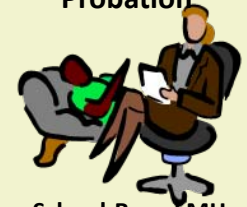
- TANF
- GAIN, CAL Learn, Cal WORKS, etc.

Child & Family Services



- Child Care – CCDBG, SSBG, Cal WORKS Child Care, etc.
- After-School Programs – 21st Century Learning Centers, etc.
- Promoting Safe & Stable Families
- Child abuse & Neglect Programs
- Foster Care – Transition, Independent Living, Housing, etc.
- Adoption Assistance, Adoption Opportunities

Mental Health & Probation



- School-Based MH Services for Medi-Cal Kids
- Probation Officers in Schools
- Cardenas-Schiff Legislation
- Health Care Through Probation
- Mental Health Evaluations
- Juvenile Halls

Which Agencies Could Help This Family?



Mom



Dad



9 year old



5 year old



Baby 1 1/2



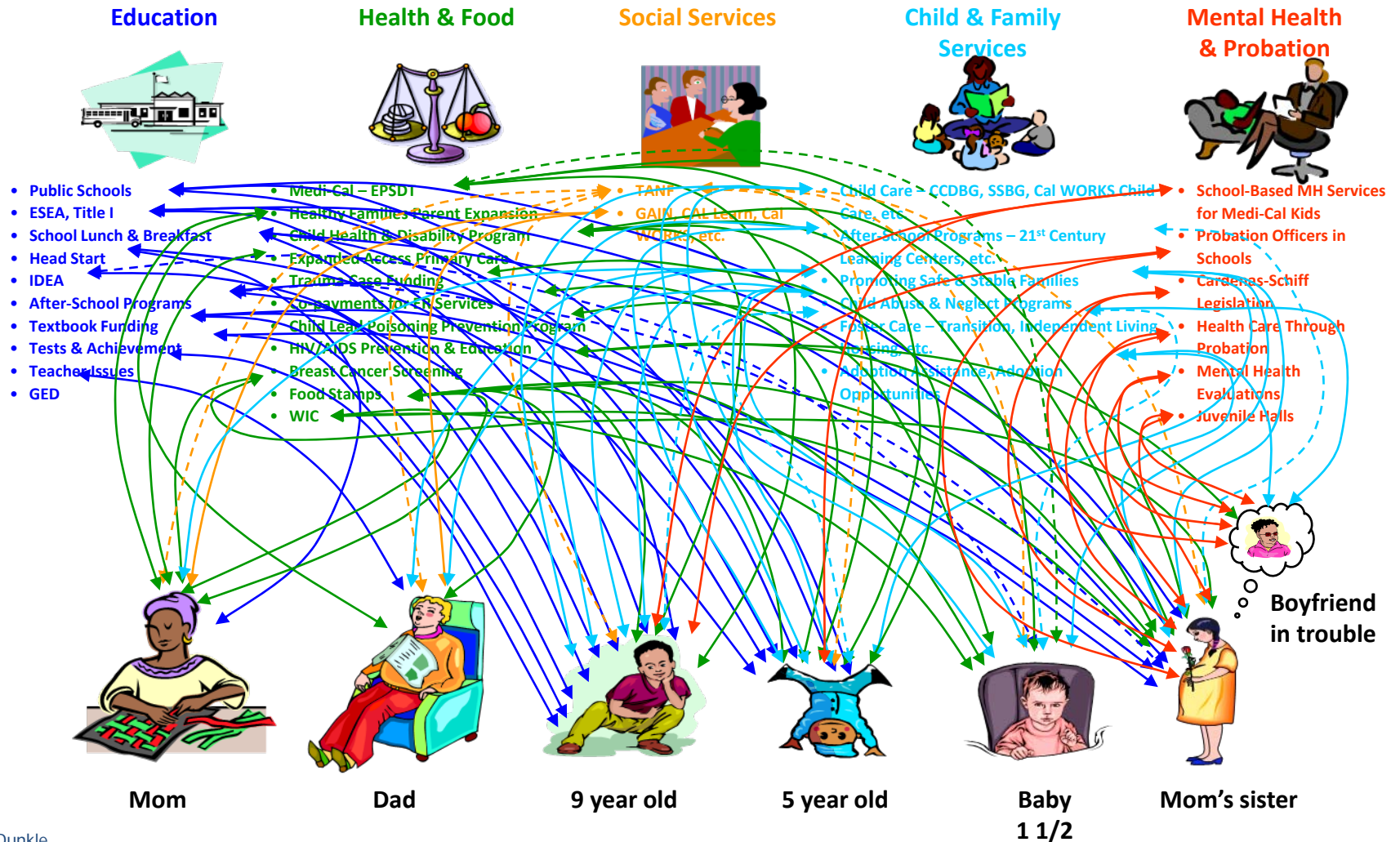
Mom's sister



Boyfriend in trouble

Understanding Systems That Affect Families

A Look at How 40+ Programs Might Touch One Family



What Is An Early Childhood System?

The National Early Childhood Systems Working Group states:

- An early childhood development system is made up of interrelated parts working together toward a common goal: to ensure the healthy growth and optimal development of young children in the context of their families.
- A “system of systems”



What Is An Early Childhood System?

Two Types of Components:

- Programs and services
- Support/infrastructure and operational features



Early Childhood System (Programs and Services)

Comprehensive health services that meet children's vision, hearing, nutrition, behavioral, and oral health as well as medical health needs.

Early Learning

Early care and education opportunities in nurturing environments where children can learn what they need to succeed in school and life.

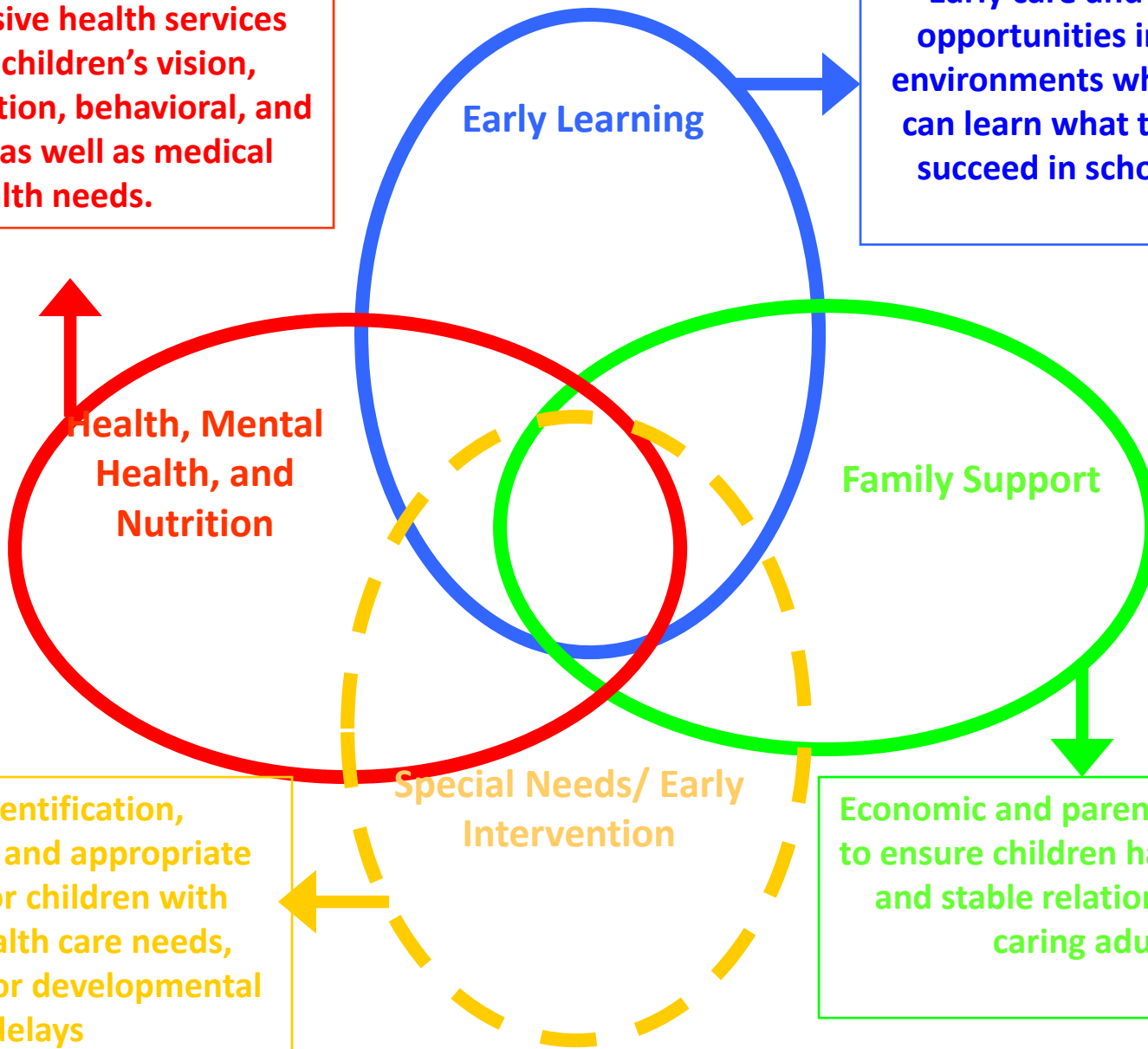
Health, Mental Health, and Nutrition

Family Support

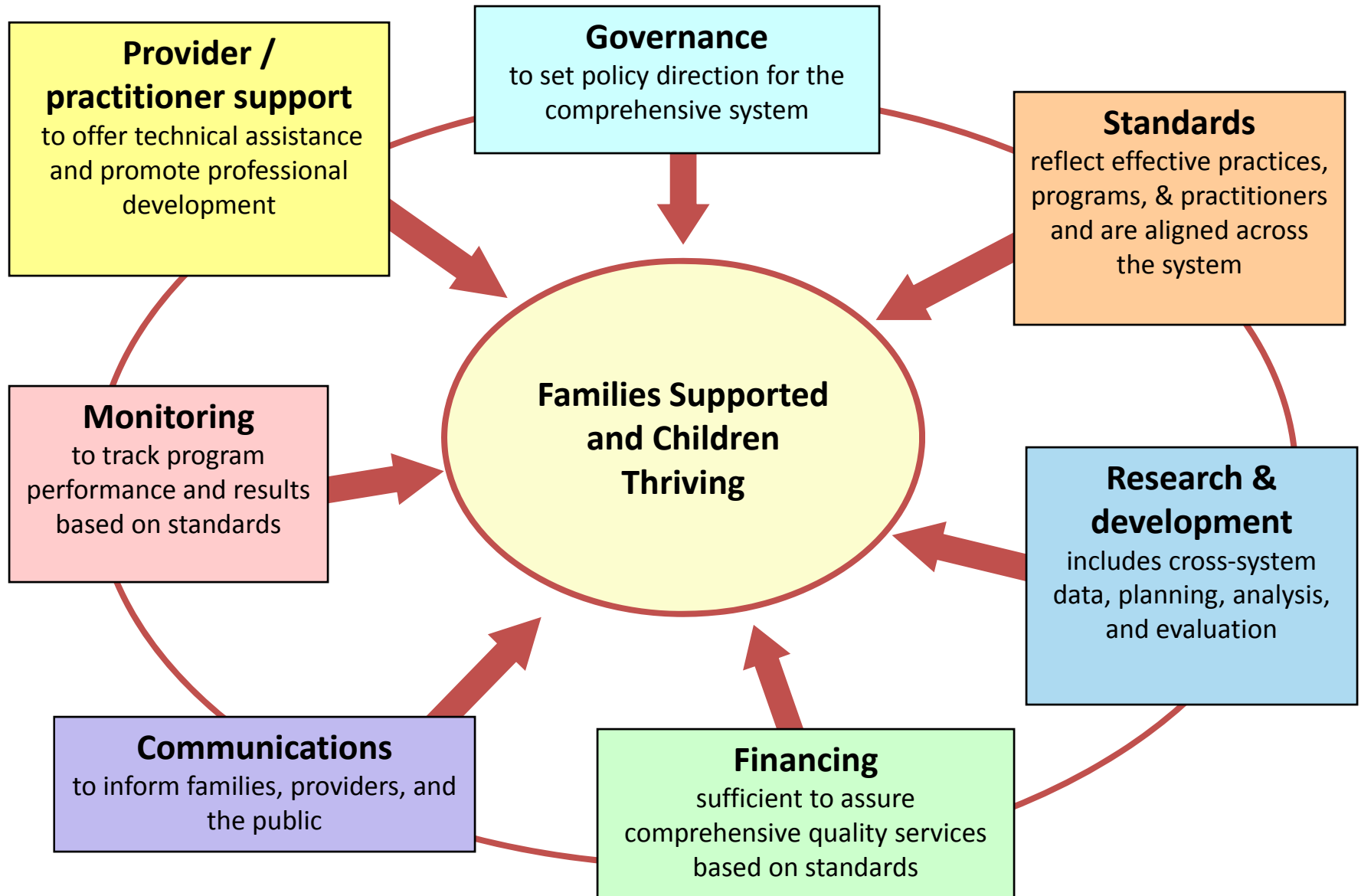
Special Needs/ Early Intervention

Early identification, assessment and appropriate services for children with special health care needs, disabilities, or developmental delays

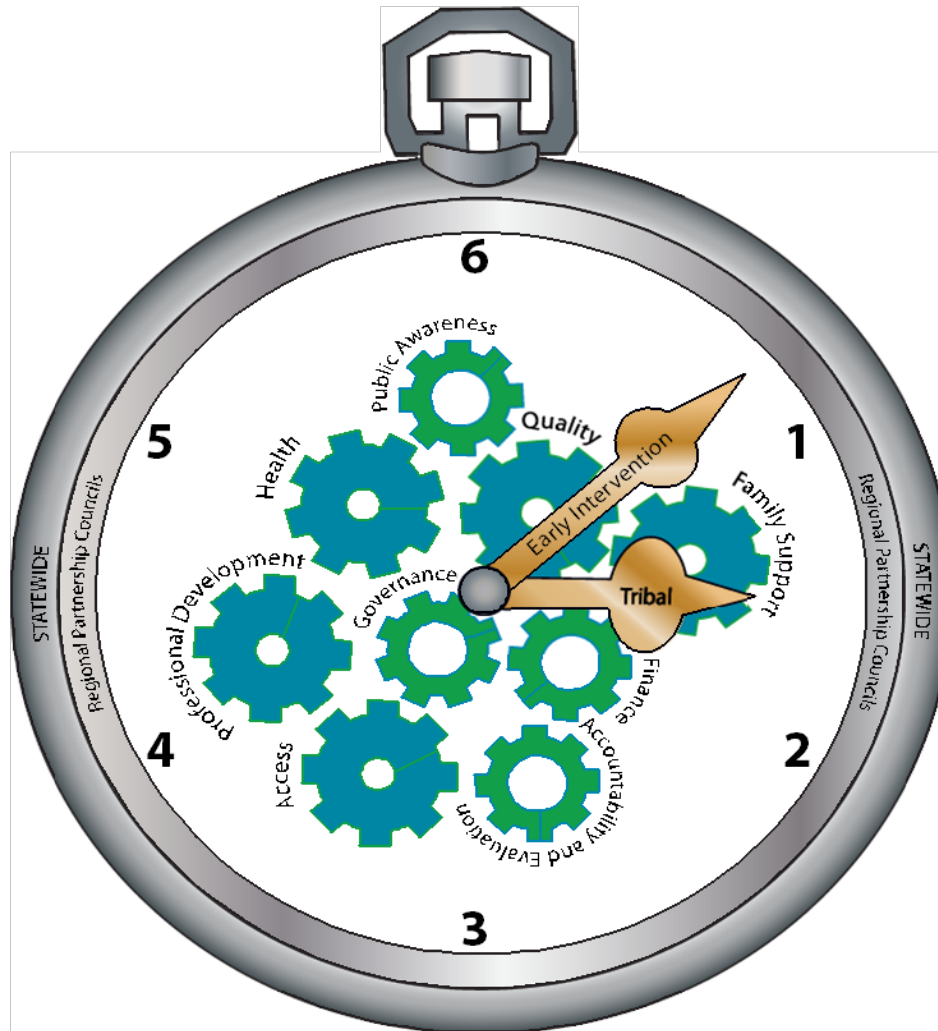
Economic and parenting supports to ensure children have nurturing and stable relationships with caring adults.



Early Childhood System (Infrastructure/Operations)



Building the Early Childhood System



First Things First Strategic Plan Early Childhood Systems Framework



The First Things First ***Vision*** is that all Arizona children birth through age five are afforded opportunities to achieve their maximum potential to succeed in school and life.

The First Things First ***Mission*** is to increase the quality of, and access to, the early childhood development and health system that ensure a child entering school comes healthy and ready to succeed.



First Things First Strategic Plan Early Childhood Systems Framework



The First Things First vision & mission will be attained through a **comprehensive** early childhood **system** that **values children** as our greatest asset, and recognizes **families** and **communities** at the center of decision making.



First Things First Strategic Plan Early Childhood Systems Framework



First Things First will be led by strength-based ***Guiding Principles*** that determine how:

- Decisions are Made
- Programs, Services and Supports are Offered
- Funding Decisions are Made
- Accountability is Achieved



First Things First Strategic Plan Early Childhood Systems Framework



The Mission and Vision are realized if the ***System Outcomes*** are achieved:

- All children have access to high-quality early care and education.
- All children have access to high-quality preventive and continuous health care.
- All early childhood development and health professionals are well prepared and highly skilled.
- All families actively engage in children's success.
- The early childhood system is coordinated, integrated, and comprehensive.
- Arizonans substantially support early childhood efforts both politically & financially.



First Things First Strategic Plan Roadmap



Goals (What We Will Do in 3 – 5 years)

- Goals address all areas of First Things First
- All Goals are interrelated and the whole package of goals is more than the sum of individual goals
- Goals reflect the initial stages of building an early childhood system:
 - Building advocacy and relationships
 - Developing infrastructure and policy
 - Establishing or building on high-performance programs and services
- Goals reflect how First Things First will coordinate and collaborate with partners



First Things First Strategic Plan Roadmap



Key Measures (3 – 5 years)

- FTF evaluation will monitor and analyze early childhood system data
- High quality processes and practices are related to positive outcomes for children and families
- Three to five year Key Measures are part of overall evaluation plan



First Things First Strategic Plan Roadmap



Key Measures (3 – 5 years)

- At least one Key Measure for each goal
- Each Key Measure is supported with additional data and analysis
- Baseline data are being negotiated with partners
- Some data will be collected by FTF
- Demographic, Age, Risk and Geographic Information will be monitored



First Things First Strategic Plan Roadmap



Key Measures (3 – 5 years)

- National comparison data will be gathered
- For each Key Measure, baseline data will be obtained and targets set
- The Board will be regularly updated with data related to progress on reaching targets of Key Measures



First Things First Strategic Plan Roadmap



Recommended Statewide Strategic Directions (How We Will Implement Goals)

- All strategies are comprehensively interrelated to implement Goals
- Statewide strategies in **green font** are those proposed for state level grant funding at March 2008 Board meeting
- Statewide non-funded strategies reflect advocacy, coordination, collaboration and partnership with other agencies, governments and organizations



First Things First Strategic Plan Roadmap



Regional Strategic Directions

- Board approves set of Goals to indicate desired areas of focus and improvement
- Councils determine areas of desired focus and improvement from this set of Goals based on Regional Needs and Assets Report
- Regional strategies can align with, complement, or be completely different from statewide strategies as long as they support FTF Goals



Decision Criteria Considered by FTF Staff

1. Does the strategy build and/or support statewide infrastructure needed for a quality early childhood system?
2. Does the strategy fill a gap identified through Needs and Assets Report?
3. Does the strategy build on existing financial resources and investments?
4. Does the strategy promote comprehensive system development?
5. Are the resources necessary to implement the strategy available and sustainable?
6. Is the impact of the strategy measurable?
7. Is the strategy politically viable?
8. Is a statewide infrastructure necessary for this strategy to be utilized effectively at regional levels?
9. Can the strategy be responsive to local needs and allow regions to purchase services and/or collaborate at the regional level?



Strategic Directions for Statewide Proposed to Board in March 2008

Strategic Direction	SFY 09	SFY 10	SFY 11
1a. QIRS	4.5	6	6
1b. Health Consultants	0.6	1.2	1.2
8a. T.E.A.C.H.	0.375	0.5	0.5
6a. Developmental Screening	2.85	4.85	5.275
11b. Web Parent Information	0.25	0.15	0.15
4a. AHCCCS Outreach	0.25	0.25	0.25
11a. Parent Kit	0.5	0.71	0.71
15a. Public Awareness	2	2	2
TOTAL	11.325	15.66	16.085

budget estimates in millions



Strategic Directions for Statewide Funding

Approved by Board in March 2008

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4a. AHCCCS Outreach	0.25	0.25	0.25
11a. Parent Kit	0.5	0.71	0.71
15a. Public Awareness	2	2	2
TOTAL	7.975	10.41	10.41

budget estimates in millions



Next Steps for Statewide Funding

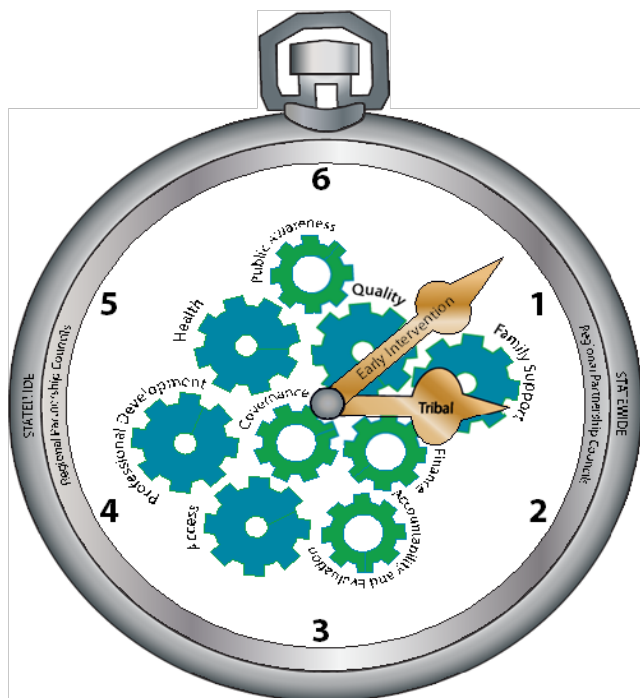


Board Requested More Research for Future Consideration:

- Outreach for health insurance enrollment
- Web-based parent education and information system
- Developmental screening and early intervention services



Building the Early Childhood System



A Moment in Time:

- Starting to Wind the Clock
- No Time Like the Present
- Built to Last



Next Steps for Regional Councils



Planning Process:

- Conduct Needs and Assets Assessment
- Identify Strengths and Gaps
- Develop Strategic Planning
- Complete Funding Plan
- Award Grants for Programs and Services

